

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A gas injection apparatus, comprising:
2 a tubular member defining an axial bore therethrough, the axial bore adapted to deliver a
3 gas into a wellbore proximate a perforation interval via ~~an orifice~~ orifices; and
4 a plurality of gas lift ~~[[valve]]~~ valves attached to the tubular member, the gas lift ~~[[valve]]~~
5 valves adapted to regulate communication ~~between,~~ via the corresponding orifices, from the axial
6 bore of the tubular member ~~[[and]]~~ to the wellbore ~~via the orifice~~ at or below the perforation
7 interval.

- 1 2. (Previously Presented) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising
2 a sealing mechanism to seal the wellbore above the perforation interval,
3 wherein the tubular member is adapted to engage the sealing mechanism.

- 1 3. (Previously Presented) The gas injection apparatus of claim 2, wherein the
2 sealing mechanism is a dual-port packer.

- 1 4. (Original) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tubular member is
2 adapted to inject a gas proximate the perforation interval of a gas-bearing well.

- 1 5. (Original) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tubular member is
2 adapted to inject a gas proximate the perforation interval of an oil-bearing well.

- 1 6. (Original) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a retrieving
2 element attached to the tubular member.

1 7. (Currently Amended) A gas lift system for use in producing a well having a
2 perforation interval, the system comprising:
3 a sealing mechanism adapted to seal the well at a location above the perforation interval,
4 the sealing mechanism having two ports therein;
5 a tubular string adapted to produce fluid from the perforation interval via one port in the
6 sealing mechanism; and
7 an injection tool adapted to inject gas into the well at or below ~~proximate~~ the perforation
8 interval via the other port in the sealing mechanism, the injection tool having plural gas lift
9 valves for delivering the injected gas into the well at a location below the sealing mechanism and
10 at or below the perforation interval.

1 8. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the tubular string comprises
2 one or more gas lift valves for injecting a gas into the well at a location above the sealing
3 mechanism.

1 9. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the sealing mechanism is a
2 dual-port packer.

1 10. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the well is a gas-bearing well.

1 11. (Original) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein the well is an oil-bearing well.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method for producing through a [[well]] wellbore having
2 a perforation interval proximate a formation, comprising:
3 injecting gas into the [[well]] wellbore at or below ~~proximate~~ the perforation interval,
4 wherein injecting the gas comprises injecting the gas using an injecting tool having plural
5 gas lift valves.

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method for unloading an accumulated liquid from a well
2 having a perforation interval proximate a gas-bearing formation, wherein hydrostatic pressure of
3 the accumulated liquid exceeds pressure of produced gas, the method comprising:

4 sealing the formation in the well at a location above the perforation interval;

5 providing a tubing string for establishing communication between surface and a point
6 below the sealing location;

7 providing a gas injection tool having a plurality of gas lift ~~[[valve]]~~ valves for
8 establishing communication between a point above the sealing location and the perforation
9 interval below the sealing location;

10 delivering gas into the well at or below ~~proximate~~ the perforation interval via the plurality
11 of gas lift valves of the gas injection tool to decrease the hydrostatic pressure of the accumulated
12 liquid to a level sufficient to permit gas to be produced from the formation; and

13 removing the accumulated liquid and gas from the well via the tubing string.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A gas lift system for use in producing a ~~[[well]]~~ wellbore
2 having perforations proximate a gas-bearing formation, the system comprising:

3 a dual-port packer adapted to seal the ~~[[well]]~~ wellbore at a location above the
4 perforations, the sealing mechanism having two ports therein;

5 a tubing string adapted to deliver gas from the perforations proximate the formation via
6 one port in the packer to a surface location, wherein the tubing string has a valve that is actuated
7 in response to gas pressure in a well annulus outside the tubing string exceeding a predetermined
8 level; and

9 an injection tool adapted to inject gas from a surface location into the ~~[[well]]~~ wellbore at
10 or below ~~proximate~~ the perforations via the other port in the packer, the injection tool having a
11 plurality of gas lift ~~[[valve]]~~ valves for delivering the injected gas into the ~~[[well]]~~ wellbore at a
12 location below the ~~sealing mechanism~~ packer.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the gas lift
2 ~~valve is~~ valves are arranged on a side of the tubular member to enable injected gas to pass in a
3 radial direction of the tubular member into the wellbore through the ~~orifice~~ corresponding
4 orifices.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
2 ~~at least another gas lift valve attached to the tubular member to regulate communication between~~
3 ~~the axial bore of the tubular member and the wellbore through another orifice of the tubular~~
4 ~~member,~~

5 wherein a first of the gas lift valves is ~~is~~ [[are]] actuated in response to the gas reaching a
6 first different gas pressures pressure, and a second of the gas lift valves is actuated in response to
7 the gas reaching a second, different gas pressure.

1 17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (Currently Amended) The gas injection apparatus of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 16, wherein the
2 first gas lift valve is closed once the delivered gas reaches the second pressure.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The gas lift system of claim 7, wherein a first of the plural
2 gas lift valves is ~~is~~ [[are]] actuatable in response to the gas reaching a first gas pressure, and a
3 second of the plural gas lift valves is actuatable in response to the gas reaching a second,
4 different gas pressure at different pressures.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The gas lift system of claim 19, wherein the plural gas lift
2 valves are configured to sequentially actuate in response to the injected gas reaching different
3 pressures.

1 21. (Cancelled)

1 22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 12, further comprising:
2 actuating a first one of the gas lift valves when the injected gas reaches a first pressure;
3 and
4 actuating a second one of the gas lift valves when the injected gas reaches a second,
5 greater pressure.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising closing the
2 first gas lift valve when the injected gas reaches the second pressure.

1 24. (New) The gas injection apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of gas lift
2 valves are located at or below the perforation interval.